There have been shortfalls in the intake of cadets in Indian Military Academy (IMA) (DE) at Dehradun. The shortfall in recruitment of officers in the services can be partly attributed to the change in the socio-economic environment, the change in career preferences and availability of employment opportunities in other sectors.

Several steps have been taken by the three Services to attract more talented youth to join the Defence Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) have been made eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. In addition to the above, 750 posts of Lieutenant Colonels have been upgraded to Colonel's rank. The tenure of SSC officers has also been extended from 10 years to 14 years.

The Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, counseling and motivational talks in schools, colleges and NCC camps are also some of the other measures in this direction. In addition, the commitment and bravery of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and print media.

The Government has also appointed VI Central Pay Commission to go into the question of revision of pay and allowances etc. of all the Government servants including the Armed Forces. The three-Services have presented a joint memorandum to the Pay Commission suggesting revision of pay and allowances and other service conditions. The matter has also been discussed with the Pay Commission by the three Service Chiefs and officers in the Ministry of Defence.

Fighter plane crashes

†2054. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

the details of incidents of air crashes of fighter planes of Indian Air Force during last three years as on date, date-wise;

the number of persons killed and injured in these air crashes, accident-wise and the financial loss suffered by Government due to such air crashes;

the amount of compensation paid, accident-wise;

whether investigation of each accident has been made; and

if so, the details thereof, accident-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The details of incidents of air crashes of fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force (IAF), along with the number of persons killed/injured and the amount of compensation paid/financial loss suffered by the IAF during last three years and the current financial year *(i.e.* upto 11th March, 2008), date-wise is enclosed as Statement *(See* below).

(d) and (e) Each air crash in the IAF is investigated by a Court of Inquiry. As per the Court of Inquiries, the main reasons for aircraft accidents are Human Error and Technical

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Defect. A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the IAF to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Statement

Details of incidents of air crashes of fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force during last three years and upto 11th March, 2008

Date	Type of aircraft	Persons killed/injured	Loss of property/compensation paid (Rupees)
1	2	3	4
Financial Year 2004-2005:			
02.04.2004	Jaguar	2/Nil	10,00,000
28.04.2004	MiG-27	1/Nil	5,50,000
07.05.2004	Jaguar	Nil/Nil	Nil
19.05.2004	MiG-27	1/Nil	5,00,000
23.09.2004	Mirage	Nil/Nil	Nil
12.10.2004	Mirage	Nil/Nil	Nil
01 11.2004	MiG-21	Nil/Nil	Nil
05.11.2004	MiG-27	Nil/Nil	Nil
09.11.2004	Mirage	1/Nil	5,00,000
04.01.2005	MiG-21	Nil/Nil	Nil
08.03.2005	Mig-21	2/6	15,30,000
Financial Year 2005-2006:			
11.05.2005	Jaguar	1/Nil	5,00,000
07.10.2005	Jaguar	Nil/Nil	Nil
26.10.2005	MiG-21	1/1	5,00,000
13.12.2005	MiG-21	Nil/Nil	Nil
17.01.2006	MiG-21	Nil/Nil	Nil
21.03.2006	MiG-21	2/Nil	10,00,000
Financial Year 2006-2007:			
08.06.2006	MiG-29	Nil/Nil	Nil
18.09.2006	MiG-21	Nil/Nil	Nil
28.09.2006	MiG-29	Nil/Nil	86,309

1	2	3	4
19.10.2006	MiG-27	Nil/Nil	Nil
21.11.2006	MiG-29	Nil/Nil	Nil
18.01.2007	Jaguar	l/Nil	5,00,000
24.01.2007	Mirage	l/Nil	5,41,700
01.03.2007	MiG-21	l/Nil	5,00,000
Financial Year 2007-2008 (upto 11th March, 2008):			
08.05.2007	MiG-29	Nil/Nil	Nil
22.05.2007	MiG-21	l/Nil	5,00,000
Jaguar	Nil/Nil	Nil	
MiG-27	Nil/Nil	Nil	
15.02.2008	MiG-21	Nil/Nil	Nil

Sale of ration for Siachin soldiers in open market

†2055. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether Government is aware of sale of ration meant for Siachin soldiers, in open market;

if so, the details thereof;

the date-wise number of FIRs registered by police and army in this regard with criminal contents recorded therein; and

whether his Ministry has had an enquiry conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) In 2007 some stray incidents of sale of ration meant for soldiers posted in Siachen came to the notice. However, based on intelligence report of the Army, police carried out raids on civilian shops at village Chumathang on 11.7.2007 and subsequent raids lasting upto 20.7.2007 in some shops in Nubra Valley. Certain quantities of special rations were recovered.

11 FIRs (3 in Police Station, Leh, 02 in Police Station, Nyoma and 6 in Police Station, Nubra) were registered by J&K Police under Section 409,411 Ranvir Penal Code during the raids from 11th to 20th July 2007.

Two Courts of Inquiry have been ordered to investigate into the incident. t

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.